THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) A Committee was constituted in Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the Chairmanship of Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research to study possible health hazards due to mobile phone base stations (towers). Based on their initial study, the Committee has opined that overall there is not enough evidence to show direct health hazards of RF exposures from Mobile Base Stations (towers).

Satellite telephone service

285. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the BSNL is planning to offer satellite telephone service in 14 villages;

(b) if so, the districts in which these villages come under, State-wise;

(c) the criteria for selection of these villages; and

(d) whether Government are planning to add some more villages for this facility in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is planning to provide Village Public Telephones (VPTs) by Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs) in 14183 villages. The details are given in the Statement enclosed. (*See* below).

(c) The Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs) are being provided in the villages located in far-flung, inaccessible areas where VPTs cannot be provided on any other terrestrial media. These VPTs and DSPTs are provided under an Agreement with Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund of Department of Telecommunications.

(d) BSNL has sought some flexibility in identifying villages that require satellite phones and villages (originally identified for satellite phones) where connectivity can be provided through Wireless in Local Loop (WLL)/ landline. USO Fund has agreed to the request subject to the condition

that the number of satellite phones should not exceed the overall ceiling as prescribed in the agreement signed with BSNL.

Statement

SSA/District-wise details in respect of DSPTs as per the agreement signed by BSNL with USOF, DOT

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of District	*No. of DSPTs proposed
1	2	3	4
1	Rajasthan	Jaisalmer	18
	TOTAL		18
2	Assam	Nagaon	275
3		Silchar	4
	TOTAL		279
4		Dharmshala	60
5		Hamirpur	12
6		Kullu	52
7	Himachal Pradesh	Mandi	68
8		Shimla	46
9		Solan	37
	TOTAL		275
10		Jammu	58
11		Leh	92
12	Jammu & Kashmir	Rajouri	16
13		Srinagar	122
14		Udhampur	177
	TOTAL		465
15		Ratlam	8
16		Sagar	65

1	2	3	4
17		Satna	34
18		Shivpuri	66
19	Madhya Pradesh	Sidhi	83
20		Betul	4
21		Dewas	69
22		Dhar	40
23		Jhabua	12
24		Morena	62
	TOTAL		443
25		Akola	77
26		Amravati	134
27		Beed	15
28	Maharashtra	Kolhapur	25
29		Nanded	50
30		Parbhani	47
31		Satara	46
32		Yavatmal	89
	TOTAL		483
33	Goa	Goa	13
	TOTAL		13
34		Meghalaya	500
35	North East-I	Mizoram	20
36		Tripura	58
	TOTAL		578
37		Nagaland	16
38	North East-II	Arunachal Pradesh	543
39		Manipur	730
	TOTAL		1289

1	2	3	4
40		Balasore	4
41		Bhubaneswar (Puri)	293
42		Bolangir	138
43		Cuttack	12
44	Orissa	Dhenkanal	194
45		Ganjam	638
46		Kalahandi	200
47		Koraput	1681
48		Mayur Bhanj	86
49		Phulbani	1250
50		Sambalpur	115
51		Sundargarh	288
	TOTAL		4899
52		Adilabad	22
53		Anantapur	2
54		Cuddapah	7
55		Chittoor	1
56		East Godavari	9
57		Karimnagar	8
58		Khammam	1
59	Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool	3
60		Mehboob Nagar	2
61		Nellore	4
62		Nizamabad	2
63		Prakasam	7
64		Srikakulam	7
65		Visakhapatnam	7
66		Vizianagaram	15
67		Warangal	18
	TOTAL		115
68		Almorah	1340
69	Uttaranchal	Dehradun	111
70		New Tehri	242

1	2	3	4
71		Srinagar	1749
72		Nainital	102
	TOTAL		3544
73		Bilaspur	67
74	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	21
	TOTAL		88
75		Dalton Ganj	186
76	Jharkhand	Dumka	470
77		Hazaribagh	643
78		Jamshedpur	158
79		Ranchi	237
	TOTAL		1694
	GRAND TOTAL		14183

*The Plans are liable to change subject to the technical feasibility by other terrestrial technologies.

Cable TV services

286. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Internet Service Providers have asked the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India that ISPs should be allowed to offer cable T.V. services;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) whether Government can ask to have some compromises on the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.